

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2269

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 0464

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO WHITE HOUSE

BONN FOR ALVIN H. COHEN, USIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN

SUBJ: LEONARD GARMENT

1. PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT LEONARD GARMENT CONDUCTED A VERY SUCCESSFUL DIALOGUE WITH LOCAL POLITICAL, INDUSTRIAL, ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL LEADERS AT A USIS/CONGEN ARRANGED LUNCHEON IN DUESSELDORF ON MAY 28.
2. WHILE GARMENT'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FOCUSED ON HIS PRINCIPAL WHITE HOUSE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND CULTURAL MATTERS, INEVITABLY HIS DISCUSSION PARTNERS WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WATERGATE. THEIR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS WERE INVARIABLY FRIENDLY, BUT CLEARLY INDICATED CONCERN FOR THE VIABILITY OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL FABRIC. GARMENT ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS FRANKLY AND FULLY IN A QUIET AND MEASURED STYLE WHICH ADDED MUCH TO THE CREDIBILITY OF HIS RESPONSES. HIS EFFECTIVE PLACING OF WATERGATE IN PERSPECTIVE BROUGHT THE DISCUSSION AROUND TO OTHER SUBJECTS INCLUDING THE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SCENES.
3. LUNCHEON GUESTS INCLUDED NRW JUSTICE MINISTER POSSER, CDU

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SECRETARY GENERAL BIEDENKOPF, STEEL MAGNATE DIETER

SPETHMANN, TRADE UNION OFFICIAL HEINZ MARKMANN, WAZ EDITOR SIEGFRIED MARUHN, AND DUSSELDORF UNIVERSITY REKTOR WILHELM LOEHNER. IT IS IMPORTANT AND VERY WORTHWHILE THAT PEOPLE OF THIS CALIBRE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN AND ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT AMERICA'S CURRENT DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF RESPONSIBLE AND ARTICULATE USG OFFICIALS. GARMENT'S FRANK AND OPEN RESPONSES TO EVEN THE MOST AWKWARD QUESTIONS MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO HELPING THESE OPINION LEADERS APPRECIATE THE BASIC STRENGTH OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM.

4. IN SUM: WE BELIEVE GARMENT'S HIGH POSITION IN THE WHITE HOUSE, HIS CANDOR AND HIS SHARP INSIGHTS INTO THE AMERICAN DOMESTIC SCENE ALL COMBINED TO MAKE FOR AN UNUSUALLY INFORMATIVE AND EFFECTIVE ENCOUNTER WITH SOME OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF DUSSELDORF'S BUSINESS, ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL LIFE.
HENNEMEYER

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